A Ghostly Visitant,

St. Andrew's Gazette (Buenos Ayres.) I was a medical student in London, attending the lectures at dear old Bart's, and looking forward to being the possessor of a snug little by these means so to work upon practice which, for family reasons, my aunt's fears that-as I verily I could almost already call my | believe she would have done, had own. It wanted but a few days to not I fortunately succeeded in un-Christmas, 1874, and I intended to | ravelling the mystery-she would

On the 22nd I packed my bag, house-regarding which Miss closet Betsy Frontwood might have inquired "Why Oakshot?"-it being named on the lucus a non lucendo principle, as there was not an oak within a mile of it. The old lady met me at the entrance hall, and gave me an effusive greeting; so gushing was it that, although we were the best of friends, and I could always consider her home mine, I could not help fancying there must be some unusual cause for the delight she evidenced.

After supper the truth came out. "Phil, dear," she said, "I'm more than glad to see you this time. You know you are always welcome; but what you don't know is that either my intellect is failing or there is a-a ghost in the house Yes; don't stop me, or I shall break down: I know I shall. It is very, very stupid; but I can't help it. And O! Phil, Phil, my dear, dear boy —" and she burst into her flood of tears. I made some commonplace remarks to pacify her, wondering all the while what the deuce it could be, and whether it was really a case of "a bee in a bonnet." By-and by her hysterical fit subsided, and my aunt was able to give a rational account of

It seemed that for some nights past, after she had gone to sleep, she had been awakened by some thing tugging at the bed clothes. On one occasion the eiderdown quilt, and covering next to it, had been actually pulled off and had fallen on the floor. Naturally Miss Rachel—that was her name was very much frightened, but, nevertheless, each time she got up, lit her candle, and made a thor ough search of the room, discovering nothing, however, to explain the mystery. Her door was fast locked and bolted on the inside, the shutters were securely closed, and there was not a crevice in the apartment that she had not carefully explored to see if a living bird or animal had been concealed there, but all in vain.

I should state that my aunt, though wealthy, had only a small establishment, consisting of two elderly female servants, and these I well knew could be entirely depended upon. They slept on the first floor, at the back of the house, overlooking the garden, and the servants' quarters were on the story above. The front of the house, completely furnished should need arise, was almost always unoccupied, and, owing to the peculiar construction of the building, the only other room at the back on the same level as my aunt's, was the plate closet, where some hundreds of ounces of silver, most of it antique and of great value, are stored. I had often endeavored to persuade her to deposit this at her banker's, but she always objected to do so, alleging that it was one of her chief pleasures to look after the various articles herself.

After Miss Rachel had told me her story, I fancied I could see clearly that no supernatural agency had been at work, and yet I was puzzled to account for the fact that her chamber had certainly not been entered, and that no living being had been "lying low" in it. The elucidation of the difficulty was, I felt convinced, to be found in connection with the plate closet, and I begged my aunt to allow me to pass the night in that retreat. After some hesitation she consented, and when bedtime came, I made myselt as comfortable there as I could with the assistance of a sofa chair, plenty of eggs, and a modicum of -well, not water alone. My only stipulation was that my aunt's door should be left unfastened.

I must have dozed, off and on, for a couple of hours, when I was aroused by a piercing scream; and "Phil! Phil!" in an agonizing tone, sounded in my ears. I rushed out of the plate room, crossed the narrow passage which separated it from the bedchamber, and in a moment was in the latter. As I entered something became entangled in my legs, and I nearly fell. But in that second, I neard a slight scuffle outside the window, and dashing open the shutters I caught sight of a man making tracks for the end of the garden. I had my revolver in my hand, and fired, bringing down the quarry. The shot attracted the attention of the village policeman who happened to be close at hand, and between us the wounded man, who proved to be a neer-do well of the locality, was safely housed.

I then had time to devote attention to Miss Rachel, who, it may easily be believed, was not a little alarmed. But her satisfaction in finding that she had neither been the victim of a mental malady, nor of a ghostly visitant, tended greatly to quiet her nerves, and she was completely reassured when we dis- and then she is cast out of the covered now the trick had been game, "kachi," or victory, as the worked.

That which had caused me stumble just inside my aunt's room turned out to be a fine, but very rigid, steel wire, one end having been split in three, and each point bent down and sharpened, so that an exact resemblance of a bird's claw was produced. The window and shutter being not only old fashioned but old, had left suffithe hinge to allow this instrument

following night, This was the substance of the confession made by our prisoner, who alleged that it was his design pass that season with an aunt in have changed her sleeping apart Huntingdonshire. ment to the front of the house, when he would have had the opportunity and in due time arrived at Oak- he desired, of gaining free access shot, as my relative called her to the back—including the plate

On the following morning when I went to breakfast an envelop with a £10 note was in my plate.

It is urged that it is an indecency for women to sit astride. I ask, Why? [remarks Lady Cook in the Eureka Magazine] Until "Good Queen Anne" introduced the side saddle, the women of England always rode horseback astride like men, as women of many countries do to the present day. It is nonsense to connect immorality with either mode, as it is simply a matter of custom; and when the novelty of seeing a woman astride has worn off, time will sanction both it and knickerbockers, as it has sanctioned so many other things. It is somewhat amusing, however, to hear women who ap pear at public functions in the most decollete manner-semi-nude, arms and shoulders, backs and breasts bare to all beholders-disparaging the modest woman who only displays, to the extent of a tew inches, the shape of a pair of well covered legs. Ladies of position have long been accustomed to accompany their male triends to cover and moor shooting, habited in knickers and leggings, and little notice has been taken; but the adoption of similar garments by the cycling community is quite another thing, and requires police

Mankind have been trying all kinds of clothing, possibly to discover a rational dress, and have not found a suitable one yet. We may still say, as Chaucer in the "Parson's Tale," "Alas! May not a man see as in our daies, the sinneful costlewe array of clothing and namely in to moch superfluitee, or elles in to disordinate scantnesse?" Among the superfluities was the "length of the foresaide gounes, trailing in the myre, on hors and eke on foot, as well of man as of woman, that all thilke trailing is veraily wasted, consumed, threadbare and rotten, rather than it is geven to the poure."

The fashion of short and tight

breeches "which rather exposed the wearer's nakedness than hid it," was banished from France by an edict of Charles V. The beaux CHARLES CLASS of Elizabeth's reign, however, ditfered from those of Chaucer's and Charles's times. They stuffed their breeches with feathers, rags, and other light materials, until they were swollen to a huge circumference; and at the same time the ladies wore large hooped farthingales; something like modern crinolines, so that "two lovers aside could surely never have taken one another by the hand.' In a print by Vertue, Lady Hudson, a leader of fashion, heads Elizabeth's procession to Lord Hudson's. Her "standing up wire ruff' rises above her head, her stays reach to her knees, and her farthingale encloses her "as in a capacious tub." Disraeli says.
—"The amorous Sir Walter Raleigh must have found some of the Maids of Honor the most impregnable tortifications his gallant spirit ever assailed." Old Stowe says of the reign, "in that time he was held the greatest gallant that had the deepest ruff and longest rapier." We have seen an old French print of Adam and Eve in elaborate Eastern costumes, robed, jewelled and turbanned, although we are told our Biblical ancestors commenced with fig leaves, and did not advance beyond "coats of skins." The graceful and Greeklike dresses of Anglo-Saxon times continued to linger long atter the Conqueror. The conquest of France by the English introduced French fashions, and these and other refinements continued to

Holland also. CHINESE GAMES .- The Japanese children play some good games that might help American youngsters through a wintry afternoon, The girls, big girls, too, have a very pretty ball game that they call "yemari," which means handball, but it is not at all the same thing as the handball we know. A number of them stand in a circle. One of them takes the ball-they use one about two inches in diameter-and throws it perpendicularly on the ground. As it rebounds she strikes it back with her open hand. This she does as often as she can do so without moving from her place in the circle, but when it bounds nearer to some other girl-as it will be sure to do soon-it is the part of that girl to strike it down. So the game goes on till some girl fails to hit when she should or to make it rebound, girls call it.

come at intervals from Italy and

There is another merry game called "catching the snake's tail." One player is selected to be the catcher, and the rest range themselves in a row, one behind the other, each child putting bis or her hands on the shoulders of the child

in front of him. The catcher stands in front of the row some feet away, and when cient space at the corner next to the row is ready the game commences, and it consists of the to be inserted and pushed forward | catcher's efforts to catch the last until the forked end rested on the | child in the row, while the row debedclothes. A little manipulation | fends its tail, the snake's tail. This enabled the man outside, who is usually the smallest child play- THEO. R. HELB, stood on a short ladder, to pull off ing, for the row is graduated by the coverlet by means of the claw, size, the catcher must not push any and then quickly to disengage and one in the row, and the chain of ERY. withdraw the wire. Of course, the row must not be broken, either directly he heard the sound of matches being struck inside, preparatory to the lighting of the candle, he vanished, only to return comes the tail.

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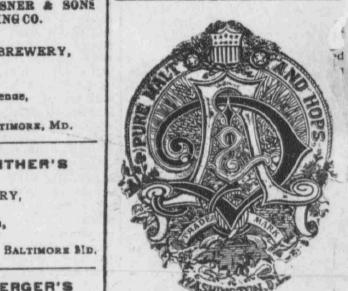
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